# A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, November 9. 1710.

I Have Enquir'd in my laſt, into the Suggeſtion, that the Rabbles and Tumults, which have, like a Lunacy, poſſeſs'd the People of this Nation, are pleaſing to the Queen: I think, I have diſarm'd that pretence of all its Probabilities, and diſarm'd the Party of that Pretence; I muſt now demonſtrate, that it can no more be agreeable to the Miniſtry, or to the Parliament, than it can be to the Queen —— And this I ſhall do, without Enquiring, or concerning my ſelf to Enquire, who are in or out of the Miniſtry, and what kind of Members are Choſen to Repreſent us in Parliament; going upon the General Tory Suggeſtion, that both Miniſtry and Parliament, ſhould be both of their own Side.

> It is a hard Age, that a Man muſt not with Freedom, ſpeak of great Men — If you ſpeak immoderately true, you raiſe the Power; *if well*, of Cenſure for Flattery; *if evil*, of Puniſhment from the Guilt you provoke —— But I'll avoid both.

I am not oblig'd here, to Enquire into the Deſign of Men, or to give my Opinion, of what Meaſures they will take; but I may venture to tell you a little, what they will not do, and what you are Diſtracted if you expect.

And

And what do this Generation expect of the New Miniſtry? What do you look for? Do you expect they ſhould overturn the Conſtitution, dethrone Juſtice, and reſtore Tyranny; depoſe the Queen, and bring in the Pretender? —— Why, then you'll be miſtaken, it cannot be in their Deſign, becauſe they know it is not in their Power —— I have nothing to do with what Men would do if they could —— But as we know Men are not Fools, We cannot ſuggeſt ſuch blindneſs ſhould poſſeſs them, to attempt a Thing ſo palpably Impracticable.

Well, but they may do ſomething for us, *ſay the Tory Party*, without all this; we are not for the Pretender any more than the Whigs, but they may do ſeveral Things for us that we want —— *Well, what are they?* Why they may cruſh the Inſolence of the Whigs, ſecure the Church, pull down the *Diſſenters*, put an end to the War, and the like.

I think this is ſtating the Caſe *for the Tories* as much to their Advantage as they can expect —— Well, now let us anſwer this —— They can do none of theſe for you, in your Senſe.

They can no farther cruſh the Whigs, than the Law will cruſh them; and the Inſolence you pretend to, muſt be made Legally appear, before the Law can take Cogniſance of the Matter —— They cannot do any Thing, for or againſt the Church, but by Law; and the Law can do nothing to ſecure the Church, till the Danger of it Legally appear —— They cannot pull down the *Diſſenters*, but by Law; and the Law having given them a Toleration, which the Queen has back'd with her Royal Promiſe, to preſerve INVIOLABLE: Theſe People cannot touch the *Diſſenters*, till they can prevail upon her Majeſty, to break *that Sacred Promiſe*; What then can you expect of the Miniſtry?

As to putting an end to the War —— The Miniſtry have more Senſe of our Condition, than to carry it on beyond the time that an Honourable Peace can be made; and more Senſe of their own Safety, than to make a ſhameful *Jacobite Peace* —— If they make a ſafe Peace, it will be ſafe to themſelves; if not, it lies at their Door.

But all this is ſhort of the Thing in Hand —— What, can you expect of the preſent Miniſtry, to encourage you in the preſent Diſorder? Can you expect the Miniſtry will pull down the Nation, —— that you prompt them to pull down the *Diſſenters*, your Way? —— Can the Miniſtry pull down the Conſtitution? —— Can they be ſuppos'd to Countenance Rabble and Tumult? Are not the Rabbles and Diſorders of the Street always a Terror to, and the Averſion of the Miniſtry? —— If Rabbles get the Rule, all Miniſtry is at an end —— The ſetting up Rabbles and Riots, is taking the Adminiſtration out of the Hands of the Officers of State, and is an effectual Depoſing the Miniſtry; for what need is there of an Adminiſtration, when Tumult Governs, when Riot Rules in the Street, and the Mob ſet up for Maſters?

When Violence prevails for Law, Judge and Jury are at an end; when the Mob are our Governours, all other kind of Government dies of Courſe —— We never yet found, I think, hardly can an Inſtance be produc'd, but when ever Mob erected a State, Miniſtry, or Government, that very Government has, at laſt, fallen by the Mob again —— Our former Diſorders in this Nation, leave ſad Examples of this; Mob began the War, and Mob ended it; Mob rais'd an Army to Fight for the Parliament, and Mob rais'd an Army to fight againſt that Parliament; Mob ſet the Parliament above the King, and Mob ſhouted Home Monarchy, to the Overthrow of the Parliament Hierarchy they had ſet up. Abroad it has been the ſame Thing, Mob drove *Henry* III. out of *Paris* for the League, and Mob drove the the League out of *Paris*, to bring in *Henry* IV. Mob ſet up *Maſſinello* at *Naples*, and Mob threw him into the Town Ditch —— What Mob ſets up, generally Mob pulls down.

Our New Miniſtry cannot be ſo Weak, to deſire an Eſtabliſhment from this Street-Authority —— You cannot pretend to break Windows, and Rabble the *Diſſenters* Houſes

es and Assemblies, to oblige the New Ministry, nor can you expect they should approve of what you have done this Way 'tis contrary to the Nature of Things, and contrary to the very Being and Authority of the Offices wherein they are plac'd.

What then is it you expect of the Ministry?—— To act for you, to join with you, to Support or Defend you; nay, to connive at, or Countenance you, is to Undermine their own Authority, lay Snares for their own Feet, and be in a Plot against themselves; no Man can be so blind as to think a Ministry, of any Government whatever, can approve of, or join with a Rabble and Mob, unless at the same time, they may be suppos'd to contrive their own Destruction, and the Ruin of their Power.

I know, the Party that excite this Rable, and make use of them as an Argument, to shew *the Sense of the Nation*, pretend they are so far a Guide to the Publick Ministers, to let them know what the generallity of the People are for —— But this is so false a Light, that no Men of common Sense, ever care to see by it, especially in their Conduct of the Publick Affairs —— And more than that, no Men, *that ever walk'd by it*, fail of Miscarrying,

Should the present Ministry Act by this Rule, those that desire their Miscarriage, can wish for no better a Symptom of the certainty of it; no Man would ask them to do any thing else, to destroy themselves— Where must such a Confusion of Management end, but in the Confusion of the Managers?

This brings me to the main Thing, *viz.* That the Ministry do not take their Measures by the Mob, but the Mobbs have been Encourag'd and Countenanc'd by the *Party*, who depend upon the Ministry, in order to assist, in running down another *Party*—— And this indeed is the Case, in some Measure——— And this leads us to what I said before, *viz.* That the very People that have done this, when they find the Ministry, *as I have said they must*, shall Act contrary to all the pretences these have laid before the Common People, *How will they be Disappointed?*

Innumerable are the Absurdities, these People have filled the Heads of the common People with, on this Occasion; and that such Delusions should prevail, is almost incredible—— Such as that the Bishops are all *Presbyterians*; that all the Low-Church Men are *Dissenters* in their Hearts; that the *Presbyterians* would Murther the Queen; that the Whigs would all bring in the Pretender —and the like; I am far from making this my self; I have Travell'd near 500 Miles, through the tumultuos Crouds of the Poor Distracted People; I have discours'd with them, and I have found them verily perswaded to believe these Things— They believe firmly, that the Queen was at the Point to be Dethron'd and Depos'd, and the Pretender to be Invited over; they believe the Church was to be Overthrown, and the *Presbyterians* to take Possession of them ——— And you had as good talk to a Welch-Harp, as attempt to Convince them; the strong Possession, *like the Imagination of a Lunatick*, is past dealing with; their Pulpits have Sounded it, they have had it from their Guides, and it must be so.

Two Things this discovers to us.

1. Whence these Delusions come? And that will of Course lead me to let you see the Persons, and part of the Design; in which I shall be very plain.

2. It makes it clear, that the poor People are yet Right in the Main, they are only abus'd in the Means; their Aversion is still *Popery*, *Slavery*, and the *Pretender*, and the People that Manage them, take them by that handle, perswading them, *that the Dissenters are the Men, that will bring these Things upon them* ——— And when these Delusions wear off, we shall have them run another Way.

Now, that the Ministry can, as they are Managers of the Publick Affairs, answer the Expectation of these People, either of the Deluders of the People, or

or of the People they have deluded, *Is utterly improbable*, and therefore it is, I say, like the Honest Disciples going to *Emmaus*, they will express their Disappointment with a *Sperabamus illum esse qui Redempturus esset Israelem* —— *We hoped that this was he that should have Redeemed Isr.*

I shall Enquire in my next, what these People expect from the Parliament that is now approaching.

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